

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in view of the preceding amendments and following remarks, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3-7, 13-15, 17, 22, 24-31 and 33 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 3, 14, 15, 17, 22, 28, 30 and 31 are amended. Claims 2, 8-12, 16, 23 and 32 are cancelled.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's indication that certified copies of the priority documents have been received by the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), and that the reference included in the Information Disclosure Statement filed December 22, 2006 have been acknowledged as considered.

Entry of Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 and Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 2-6, 8-13, 16-21, 23-29 and 32-33 are indicated as including allowable subject matter. To expedite allowance of this application, each of the independent claims has been amended to include features previously indicated as allowable by the Examiner. For example, independent claim 1 is amended to include the features of dependent claim 2, and claim 2 is cancelled as shown in the preceding section of this amendment. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the claim amendments shown in the preceding section place all of the claims in condition for allowance and respectfully request this Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 be entered on the record.

Drawings

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner acknowledge that the drawings have been accepted by the USPTO or identify any deficiencies believed to be present in the drawings so the Applicants have an adequate opportunity to traverse and/or address any identified deficiencies.

Provisional Double Patenting Rejections

Claims 1, 7, 14, 15, 22, 30 and 31 stand *provisionally* rejected on the grounds of non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-98 of co-pending Application No. 10/753,373. Applicants respectfully submit this rejection is rendered moot by the inclusion of subject matter indicated as allowable into each of the independent claims.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of each of the pending claims of the present application is earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Scott A. Elchert at the telephone number of the undersigned below.


Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), Applicant(s) hereby petition(s) for a one (1) month extension of time for filing a reply to the outstanding Office Action and submit the required \$120 extension fee herewith.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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By

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